

ILLAWARRA FOLK CLUB PRESENTS



ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

16 - 18 JANUARY 2026



BULLI SHOWGROUND, NSW

83 ACTS • 8 VENUES • ON-SITE CAMPING & PARKING

SOUVENIR PROGRAM • ISSUE 39

WWW.ILLAWARRAFOLKFESTIVAL.COM.AU

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Wodi Wodi and Dharawal speaking people. We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Elders, past and present, for they hold the knowledge and wisdom, traditions of Australia.

Aboriginal people of this land have performed age old customs of ceremonies, of story sharing, dance, music, and celebration, that are an integral part of the Dreaming. In the Spirit of Harmony, we look forward to, us all living, and practising respect, responsibility, resilience and reciprocity.

Dr. Jodi Edwards

*Cultural Custodian,
Story Sharer
Walbanja Yuin, with
Dharawal Kinship ties*



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Number 39. We are standing on the edge of forty Illawarra Folk Festivals - a milestone that feels both enormous and deeply personal. The thing that keeps me coming back year after year is its ability to hold both the big and the small, the epic and the intimate, all at once. I've volunteered here for fifteen years in all sorts of roles and now I have the immense honour of stepping into the shoes of Festival Director.

It has been a huge learning curve, and I want to make special mention of the core team who have steadied and guided me - Kay, Ben, Dave, Graeme, Russell, Al, Nick and Robbie. And of course, the many, many others who gift their time so generously to make this festival possible.

Every year, when I walk through the Bulli Showground gates under the escarpment, moments from the sea, I feel that familiar spark. The air filled with music, joy rising like heat and a sense of belonging that settles into your bones. This festival has always been family, my own and the folk family we build anew each year.

This is my wish for all of you - come with wonder, learn new stories, dance with strangers, seek out artists.

Let the magic find you.

Shane Moon



BIG RUSS'S WELCOME

When you reach the ripe old age of 39 years, you'd reckon you should know what you're doing. And we think we do.

We are still a volunteer-run festival, organised entirely by members of the Illawarra Folk Club. To have lasted this long as a volunteer organisation running such a large and complex festival is remarkable, especially as time inevitably claims many of our dedicated volunteers and supporters. Replacing these dedicated leaders and volunteers has been one of the IFC's strengths.

So it is a big thankyou and welcome to our new Festival Director Shane Moon, who has taken over from Cody Moore. Cody did a fine job over the previous three years and we thank him for picking up the reins after we suffered the debilitating impact of the COVID pandemic.

The essential nature of the Festival has not changed. The quality of the acts remains high across every department. We continue to maintain our intimacy and involvement through our blackboard concerts, sessions, poetry and spoken word. Our venues remain

relatively small, ensuring you are always up close, what you see is what you get.

The program speaks for itself. Over the years, hundreds and hundreds of performers have played at our fortnightly concerts. Many of these will be at the Festival, some making cameo appearances. We are also rightfully proud of Folk School which precedes the Festival, which demonstrates the club's commitment to the development of young people and the genre. Our commitment to our community is also demonstrated by our charity concert on Thursday Night.

We would like to thank all our sponsors whose names and logos appear on our promotion material and programs. In particular we would like to thank Bluescope/WIN Community Partnerships for their support of our festival over many years, while Wollongong City Council has also been a valued and active supporter through Destination Wollongong.

Finally, we extend a big thank you to all our volunteers and organisers, who give their time unstintingly to ensure that this Festival not only remains "The Biggest

Little Festival in the World" but continues to be one of the best.

Of course no introduction would be complete without thanking Festival Artistic Directors Kay Proudlove and David De Santi, whose unbelievable energy, commitment and genius keeps the festival "rolling along". And big thanks to our treasurer Paul Grebert, our production and program manager Ben Davies and of course our Festival backstops, Bruce and Robyn Jackson.

As I said this is our 39th. Over the years the site and time of year may have changed the date may have changed but the Festival's quality remains high, attested to by the fact that every year our numbers, reflected in the thousands of people who attend each year.

Enjoy the Festival, enjoy the music, and enjoy this collection of talent.

Happy folkling - and hopefully, we'll see you in January 2027.

Russell Hannah OAM



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Nestled against the stunning northern Illawarra Escarpment at the Bulli Showground, the Illawarra Folk Festival offers a vibrant, family-friendly atmosphere across eight onsite venues over three days.

Enjoy exceptional performances by more than 85 international, national and local artists, presenting concerts, workshops, dances and sessions.

Explore a diverse range of international food stalls, artisan craft vendors and our welcoming festival bar.

Onsite camping is available, along with ample parking, and Bulli Train Station is just a short walk from the festival grounds.

Entry is exclusive to festival pass holders wearing wristbands. A Season Pass grants access to all events from Friday to Sunday. Purchase your passes early for great savings.

Tickets can be purchased online at:
www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au
or by calling 1300 887 034.

The 39th Illawarra Folk Festival at Bulli is presented by volunteers from **Illawarra Folk Club Inc.**, a non-profit incorporated association.

PO Box 5289, Wollongong NSW 2500

www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au

www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au

40th Illawarra Folk Festival

15 to 17 January 2027

Artist applications close 20 May 2026

**VIEW THE
PROGRAM
ONLINE**

scan the code below



TICKET PRICES

ADULT YOUTH

ADVANCE SEASON 3 DAY PASS
ends 15 January 2026, SAVE \$20

\$210

\$80

ADD CAMPING

\$70

AT GATE 3 DAY PASS.
From 16 January 2026

\$230

\$80

FRIDAY FROM 3PM

\$80

\$30

SATURDAY FULL DAY

\$110

\$50

SUNDAY FULL DAY

\$90

\$50

FOLK SCHOOL - FULL DAY
(Concession discount = \$5)

\$90

\$80

FOLK SCHOOL
1 hour single session

\$40

\$35

*Excludes booking fees. Children U12 Free and
must be accompanied by paying parent*

CONTENTS

2 WELCOME

3 MESSAGES

5 HELP GUIDE

7 FOLK SCHOOL

8 VENUES

8 VILLAGE MAP

9 PROGRAM GRIDS

14 FESTIVAL FEATURES

15 SESSION SCHEDULE

16 ARTISTS

29 COMMITTEE

32 SPONSORS



PROGRAM CREDITS

Festival logo (RIFF) Reg Mombassa

Festival graphics

Penelope Twist, Shane Moon, David De Santi

Layout and design David De Santi

Content

David De Santi, Ann Lehmann-Kuit, Ben Davies,
Dr Jodi Edwards, Kay Proudlove, Lilli Pang,
Nick Hartgerink, Russell Hannah, Shane Moon

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Morrison, Jessica Millman, John Burgess,
Peter O'Neill, Cate Wagner, Jenelle McWilliam, Sam
Atkinson, Kim Rudner, David De Santi

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Over forty years ago, I stepped into the Jamberoo Valley Folk Festival as a wide-eyed youth, awakening to a world of folk music and the remarkable community it creates.

It's extremely satisfying to return once again and see the festival still going strong with so much life and excitement. It says so much about the resilience and community of the Illawarra region.

Through changes in name, location and generations of volunteers, the spirit of sharing music in a joyous, peaceful community has never faded.

That shared spirit of music and connection is what makes this festival feel like its own little village; somewhere people gather, reconnect and feel instantly at home.

A huge welcome to Shane Moon as Festival Director, and continuing heartfelt thanks to the artist programming and production team of Kay Proudlove and Ben Davies, who continue to carry the festival forward with passion and vision.

It's wonderful to see familiar faces returning, while also bringing fresh new talent onto our stages. This blend of tradition and renewal keeps the festival vibrant and evolving.

Endless gratitude to longtime core volunteers - Russell Hannah, Robyn Jackson, Bruce Jackson and Graeme Morrison - whose ongoing contributions keep the festival on track.

Special thanks to returning team leaders and those stepping into new roles. Your commitment and creativity help hold everything together.

So let the strings ring, the buttons dance, the voices soar and the feet move. Cheers to another year filled with music, connection and joy.

David De Santi

It's my absolute joy to welcome you to our beloved folk festival here in Bulli.

It's an honour to be a part of this team once again for 2026. Each year, this place - cradled between the escarpment and the sea - comes alive with stories, songs, and the beautiful, unrushed spirit of community that folk music carries so well.

This year's program is one of our most exciting yet. We're proud to showcase an extraordinary breadth of artists - from deeply loved folk icons to adventurous emerging voices.

Of course, a festival like ours doesn't happen without the people who quietly hold it all together. To our volunteers - thank you. Your generosity, warmth, and hard work are the backbone of this gathering, and we're deeply grateful.

Whether you're here to dance freely, dive into a workshop, be moved by a quiet ballad, or simply soak up the atmosphere, thank you for being part of it. Festivals like ours exist because people like you show up for live music, stories, and the joy of experiencing something new.

I hope this weekend treats you gently, inspires you deeply, and sends you home buzzing.

Enjoy every moment.

Kay Proudlove



PRODUCTION MANAGER

It is with great pride and elation that we bring you the 39th rendition of the Illawarra Folk Festival.

Building on a successful 2025 festival we again bring you 8 venues across this vibrant site that we have called home for almost 20 years.

Every effort has been taken to maximize the site layout and provide the best possible environment to consume and digest the incredible musical menu Kay, David and myself have assembled.

This year we have expanded the Black Diamond Pavilion space and added food vendors and a tin bar serving the finest beverages from our new local brewery friends SEEKER.

We've also moved and renamed the Global Green venue to outside the stables and called it the Horse Shoe in an effort to maximize usage of HS and Tipi venues.

Massive thanks to the artists that have travelled to perform for us this weekend, the sponsors and suppliers that help complete the site, and the army of volunteers that bring it all to life.

Shout someone a drink, share a story and absorb as much music as your ears, heart and soul possibly can!

Cheers!

Ben Davies



**AVAILABLE AT THE
FESTIVAL BAR**





FESTIVAL GUIDE

FESTIVAL OFFICE

The main office is situated at the southern entry to the Bulli Showground complex. This is where you purchase passes or exchange your pre-purchased pass voucher for a wristband. Please wear it at all times!

Next to the Festival Office is the registration area for artists, volunteers, sponsors and media. You may park your car temporarily near the office while you get your wristband but then you must park your vehicle in the designated parking areas inside the showground. The camping office is also located in the Festival Office.

FESTIVAL OFFICE OPENING HOURS

- Friday 10am – 8pm
- Saturday 7:45am – 8pm
- Sunday 7:45am – 3pm

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

The Folk Festival is run entirely with volunteers. Volunteers work 12 hours across the festival in return for a Festival Season Pass, 2 free drinks from the Festival Bar plus more.

FESTIVAL SHOP

The Festival Shop is located in the Slacky Flat Bar (Betting Ring) area, under the grandstand. Artist's and festival merchandise such as souvenirs, recordings, festival T-shirts, cookbooks, clothing and publications are available.

- Friday 2pm – 8pm
- Saturday 9am – 8pm
- Sunday 9am – 5pm

LOST AND FOUND

All lost and found items including persons should be reported to the Festival Office.

CAR PARKING

There is plenty of free parking inside the showground. Please avoid parking in the surrounding streets

BYO BOTTLE

The festival is a bottled water free event. Bring and use your refillable water bottle or grab one from the Festival Shop.

CAMPING RULES AND INFORMATION

Camping is available onsite in limited quantities. Access begins at 10am on Friday, and camping is not allowed before this time. You can register for camping once the Festival Office opens. A festival wristband must be worn at all times, and a camping permit will be issued at the Festival Office.

Display your camping permit on the car dashboard.

Children and youth (under 18) must be with a responsible parent.

- The campsite is for festival ticket holders only.
- Campfires are prohibited.
- Maintain 2.5 meters between tents.
- Only one vehicle is allowed per campsite; additional vehicles must park in designated areas.
- Recycle all waste; bins for recycling and landfill are provided.
- Do not leave valuables in cars or tents.
- Be considerate of neighbors, keep noise levels low, and hold late-night sessions inside the Grandstand and Restaurant.
- Unruly behavior will result in removal from the site.
- 24-hour security ensures the safety and comfort of all campers.

SHOWERS

There are limited hot-water showers so please conserve water and keep your showers short. There are hot showers for women and men under the grandstand and some more in the small toilet block near the entry to the main festival site.



DANCE ZONES

Dance zones have been created at the sides of the stages. Look for the signs and markings and feel free to dance without blocking the view of seated patrons. Please do not relocate positioned chairs from venues.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The festival aims to provide a safe environment for families. Parents and guardians are responsible for their children (U18) at all times. The Global Green venue has shows for children and a play area. Parents are asked to stay with their children.

FESTIVAL BAR

The festival runs its own bars with volunteers, and the proceeds help keep pass prices down. Please patronise them but drink sensibly. The bar operates strictly under licensing regulations: underage and intoxicated persons will not be served, and no alcohol may be taken in or out of licensed areas. Seeker beer and cider, wine, and soft drinks are available.



LATE-NIGHT PARTYING

A noise curfew will apply to all camping areas after 10pm. Anyone wishing to party on can go to the Grandstand Bar area inside the Grandstand Building.

Please keep all sessions inside the building. Please be courteous of other campers and festival neighbours.

VISITOR SURVEYS

A survey is being conducted. The information gathered is confidential and is used to improve future festivals and assess the quality and impact of the festival on the community. We sincerely appreciate your assistance by completing them.

TRANSPORT

- Taxi 02 4254 2111
- Train times and fares 131 500
- QANTAS 131 313
- VIRGIN 136 789
- JETSTAR 131 538
- Link (from Wollongong Regional Airport)
1300 851 269

USEFUL NUMBERS

- Wollongong Visitor Information Centre:
02 4267 5910
- Wollongong Hospital
02 4222 5000
- Radio Doctor 02 4228 5522

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

INJURY AT EVENT AWARENESS

- The Illawarra Folk Club (IFC) organises the Illawarra Folk Festival (IFF) using existing grounds, buildings, stalls, kennels,

roadways, and pathways owned or leased from various organisations.

- These facilities are used on an "as-is" basis, including any existing faults or their current condition and state of repair. To the extent permitted by law, IFC disclaims liability for any injuries or deaths occurring during the festival, regardless of the cause.
- IFC aims to make the IFF a safe and enjoyable experience. Attendees are encouraged to stay alert and exercise caution at all times. In case of injury, immediately seek assistance from a volunteer, visit a first aid station, or contact emergency services.
- By attending or participating in the IFF, you assume all risks associated with festival activities.
- Purchasing or receiving a ticket as a performer, guest, or attendee constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions on behalf of yourself, your group or band, and any accompanying minors. If you purchase tickets for a minor, you are responsible for their behavior and safety during the festival.

LICENCE, EJECTION AND CANCELLATION

- The Illawarra Folk Club (IFC) reserves the right to refuse admission or eject any person, without refund, if their conduct is deemed disorderly, includes the use of vulgar or abusive language, or fails to comply with IFC directions regarding the management of the Illawarra Folk Festival (IFF).
- As a licensed venue, the IFF operates under liquor licensing laws. Intoxicated individuals are

not permitted to remain on the premises and will be asked to leave. Additionally, no alcohol may be brought into the licensed area of the festival.

- Any breach of these terms and conditions will result in the termination of your revocable license to attend the event, without refund or compensation. All attendees must possess a valid ticket and display a valid wristband at all times.
- The festival is governed by the laws of New South Wales (NSW).

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

To the extent permitted by law, the IFC's liability is limited to the face value of the ticket purchased, plus any applicable service charges. The IFC is not liable for any loss of enjoyment or wasted expenditure and accepts no responsibility for the loss, damage, or breakage of personal property, regardless of how it occurs.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- Your festival wristband must be worn at all times. All children must also have a wristband as well.
- Sound / video recordings are not permitted without the prior written consent from the Artistic Director.
- All professional / commercial photographers or film makers must first obtain permission from the Artistic Director.
- No pets allowed on the site, except registered dogs approved by the festival organisers.
- The Illawarra Folk Festival is a smoke free festival.



The Illawarra Folk Festival is committed to minimising waste and protecting the environment.

Composting of food scraps and all compostable cups, plates, cutlery, and containers.
Recycling of plastics, glass and clean cardboard.
BYO reusable water bottles and coffee cups encouraged.

No plastic bags or single-use water bottles.
Three colour-coded, clearly signed waste-stream bins guide correct disposal.





2026 FOLK SCHOOL FRIDAY 16 JANUARY

NORTHERN ILLAWARRA UNITING CHURCH
CORNER PRINCES HIGHWAY AND POINT STREET, BULLI

	NEW HALL	OLD HALL	CHILL OUT ROOM
9:00 AM	Australian folk tunes slow session BUSH MUSIC CLUB	Writing slam poetry ENOUGH SAID POETRY	Youth traditions 1 songs & tunes KATHRYN ROBERTS PARKER
10:00 AM	Guitar finger picking for beginners MAURIE MULHERON	Arranging music & playing off the page NIKRIANN	Nature inspired prose and poetry ROBYN SYKES
11:00 AM	Beginners gypsy jazz (all instruments) CIGANY WEAVER	Songs and folklore of Ireland and Québec GROSSE ISLE	Youth traditions 2 song writing NORTH AND ELSEWHERE
12:00 PM	DADGAD guitar AMAIDÍ	Instant choir HAYLEY EGAN	Italian frame drums SANTA TARANTA
1:00 PM	Elevate your Irish fiddle skills AMAIDÍ	Song structure as a key to creativity SCOTT COOK	Youth traditions 3 harmony singing NORTH AND ELSEWHERE
2:00 PM	Turkish belly dance VIRGINIA/CINNAMON TWIST BELLY DANCE	Learning tunes by ear (intermediate) MICKEY & MICHELLE	Uilleann pipes GROSSE ISLE
3:00 PM	New Orleans Hoot Band KEN FIELD	Stagecraft - getting out of the song's way SCOTT COOK	Youth traditions 4 collaboration SHALANI THOMAS
4:00 PM	Songs and rhythms from different cultures LIMONCELLO	The revolutionary art of the protest song EMMY RYAN	Youth traditions 5 collaboration KATHRYN ROBERTS PARKER



VILLAGE MAP



ON SLACKY FLAT

There are 8 venues on 'Slacky Flat'. This area of Bulli was a former mine worker's camp and now the Bulli Showground site.

1 - BLACK DIAMOND PAVILION

The Black Diamond returns hosting concerts and events located on the western side of the horse stables. Food and bar added for this festival.

2 - HORSE SHOE

The previous Global Green has had a makeover and new location! Situated next to the old horse stables.

3 - SLACKY FLAT BAR

Venue within the main Betting Ring building. The Festival Bar is located here and stocks the festival beer from Wollongong local brewing company, Seeker. Wines, cider and soft drinks also available.

4 - FOLK GRAND

A venue with a view which utilises the showground grandstand. Access by stairs only.

5 - TIVOLI DANCE HALL

The trotting track 'dance hall' returns with concerts as well and a special Friday afternoon Italian soire.

6 - BUSH TIPI

The Bush Tipi has moved to the previous Global Green location and will feature concerts and performances for children. The space will also be used for blackboard concerts.

7 - GRANDSTAND BAR

This is on the ground floor of the Grandstand building and is adjacent to the Slacky Flat Bar. It hosts concerts, workshops, spoken word events and late night sessions.

8 - SESSION TIPI

A tipi has been provided to host sessions of all manner of music. It is located near the festival entry.

9 - FOLK SCHOOL (FRIDAY)

3 venues within the Northern Illawarra Uniting Church, corner of Princes Highway and Point Street.



THURSDAY 15 JANUARY

CHARITY CONCERT

TIVOLI DANCE HALL		GRANDSTAND BAR	
6-6:40PM PENELOPE CHURCH	8-8:40PM WHISKEY DRAM	6:30-7PM THE OTHER NOONANS	8:30-9PM EMMY RYAN & THE HARD TIMES
7-7:40PM SHALANI	9:15-10PM CIGANY WEAVER	7:30-8PM MARCO AND RUSTY	10PM SESSION

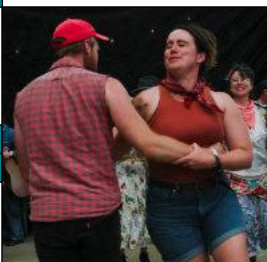


FRIDAY 16 JANUARY

2026 ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

	BLACK DIAMOND	HORSE SHOE	SLACKY FLAT BAR	FOLK GRAND	TIVOLI ON TRACK	BUSH TIPI & ON THE GREEN	GRANDSTAND BAR	SESSION TIPI	
3:00 PM									3:00 PM
3:30 PM	THE COCKATOOS 3-4PM		PIRRITU 3-3:50PM		APERITIVO TIME ITALIAN STYLE 3-4PM	MENDALA 3-3:40PM			3:30 PM
4:00 PM		PAVERTY BUSH BAND 3:30-4:20PM					ARVO POETS 3-5PM		4:00 PM
4:30 PM			MICKY & MICHELLE 4:20-5:20PM		CIGANY WEAVER 4:15-5PM	DAN WALSH 4-4:45PM		AUSSIE TUNES BUSH MUSIC CLUB 4-4:50PM	4:30 PM
5:00 PM	THE HIGH STREET DRIFTERS 4:30-5:30PM	GROSSE ISLE 4:45-5:45PM							5:00 PM
5:30 PM				NORTH & ELSEWHERE 5-5:45PM		MARK BALLESI 5-5:45PM		RANDY DANDY SHANTIES 5-5:50PM	5:30 PM
6:00 PM					LIZZIE FLYNN & THE RUNAWAY TRAINS 5:45-6:30PM				6:00 PM
6:30 PM	JOSEFINA PAULSON 6-7PM	RENNIE PEARSON 6:15-7:10PM	RUFIOUS WHISTLER 5:50-6:50PM			PATINA 6-7PM		WHISKEY DRAM SESSION 6-7PM	6:30 PM
7:00 PM				EMMY RYAN & THE HARD TIMES 6:30-7:15PM			SCOTT COOK & PAMELA MAE 6:20-7:10PM		7:00 PM
7:30 PM	7:15PM - WELCOME TO COUNTRY HOSTED BY DR JODI EDWARDS - SLACKY FLAT BAR								7:30 PM
8:00 PM	THE CON ARTISTS 7:30-8:15PM		UNCLE FRANK YAMMA 7:30-8:30PM		MAGGIE CARTY 7:30-8:15PM			CLAWHAMMER BANJO DAN WALSH 7:30-8:20PM	8:00 PM
8:30 PM		UNGUS UNGUS UNGUS 8:15-9PM		OLD MAN LUEDECKE 8:15-9PM		RHEINBERGER & WILSON 7:45-8:45PM	DANIEL DI BIASE 7:35-8:20PM		8:30 PM
9:00 PM	THE INADEQUATES 8:30-9:30PM					FIRE SHOW		OLD TIME SESSION THE HARD TIMES 8:30-9:20PM	9:00 PM
9:30 PM			SUB-TRIBE 9-10PM ONE SHOW ONLY		LOVE IN THE JUNGLE 9-9:45PM	BLACKBOARD	THE OTHER NOONANS 8:40-9:25PM		9:30 PM
10:00 PM		THE PAIRS 9:30-10:30PM		TESSA DEVINE 9:45-10:30PM		SEE THE MC FOR A SPOT 9-10:30PM	ROBERT ZIELINSKI & MANUELA CENTANNI 9:45-10:30PM	GYPSY JAZZ SESSION CIGANY WEAVER 9:30PM	10:00 PM
10:30 PM	AMAIDÍ 10-11PM								
11:00 PM			ONE SPIRIT AFRICA 10:30-11:30PM		HANDSOME YOUNG STRANGERS 10:30-11:30PM		LATE LATE SESSION FROM 10:30PM		
11:30 PM									

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY

	BLACK DIAMOND	HORSE SHOE	SLACKY FLAT BAR	FOLK GRAND	TIVOLI DANCE HALL			
7:30AM						7:30AM		
8:00AM						8:00AM		
8:30AM						DRU YOGA 7:45-8:45AM	8:30AM	
9:00AM								9:00AM
9:30AM	KEN FIELD'S HOOT BAND 9-10AM				YOUTH TRADITIONS SHOWCASE 9-10AM		SONGS OF HOPE & PEACE 9-9:45AM	9:30AM
10:00AM		BARRY SKIPSEY 9:30-10:30AM		DANIEL DI BIASE 9:45-10:30AM	TRIBAL JEWELS 9:45AM	10:00AM		
10:30AM						10:30AM		
11:00AM	KOORI VOICES ALARA LIVINGSTONE NICOLE SMEDE		RENNIE PEARSON 10:30-11:30AM		PENNY HARTGERINK TRIO 10:30-11:15AM	11:00AM		
11:30AM	MUDJINGAAL YANGAMBA HOST JODI EDWARDS 10:30-12:30PM	PENELOPE CHURCH 11AM-12PM		THE INADEQUATES 11:15AM-12PM	SOUL FLAMENCO 11:15AM	11:30AM		
12:00PM						12:00PM		
12:30PM			SCOTT COOK & PAMELA MAE 12-1PM		SHALANI 12-12:45PM	12:30PM		
1:00PM		JB PATERSON 12:30-1:30PM		DAN WALSH 12:45AM-1:30PM	TRIBAL JEWELS 12:45AM	1:00PM		
1:30PM	FELICITY URQUHART & JOSH CUNNINGHAM 1-2PM					1:30PM		
2:00PM			FIDDLE FRENZY V2.0 host SAM DE SANTI 1:30-2:30PM		THE CON ARTISTS 1:30-2:15PM	2:00PM		
2:30PM		MAGGIE CARTY 2-3PM		PATINA 2:15-3PM	SOUL FLAMENCO 2:15PM	2:30PM		
3:00PM	OLD MAN LUEDECKE 2:30-3:30PM					3:00PM		
3:30PM			UNCLE FRANK YAMMA 3-4PM		GOOD TUNES BUSH DANCE 3-4PM	3:30PM		
4:00PM		TESSA DEVINE 3:30-4:30PM				4:00PM		
4:30PM	RUFOUS WHISTLER 4-5PM				PAVERTY BUSH BAND - DANCE 4:15-5:15PM	4:30PM		
5:00PM			DOM TURNER 4:30-5:30PM			5:00PM		
5:30PM		LIZZIE FLYNN & THE RUNAWAY TRAINS 5-6PM		THE WATER RUNNERS 5:15-6PM	BLACK JOAK MORRIS 5:15PM	5:30PM		
6:00PM	GROSSE ISLE 5:30-6:30PM					6:00PM		
6:30PM			THE PAIRS 6-7PM		THE COCKATOOS 6-6:45PM	6:30PM		
7:00PM		JOSEFINA PAULSON 6.30:7:30PM		BLUEGRASS PICK FESTIVAL ACTS 6:45PM		7:00PM		
7:30PM	CIGANY WEAVER 7-8PM				ANDY OPHEE & THE OVERNIGHT LOWS 7:30-8:15PM	7:30PM		
8:00PM			THE STIFF GINS 7:30-8:30PM			8:00PM		
8:30PM		THE HIGH STREET DRIFTERS 8-9PM		ALEX KOSENKO 8:15-9PM		8:30PM		
9:00PM	SANTA TARANTA 8:30-9:30PM				WHISKEY DRAM 9-9:45PM	9:00PM		
9:30PM			ONE SPIRIT AFRICA 9-10PM			9:30PM		
10:00PM		THE FEMME FATALES 9:30-10:30PM		SLIPPERY JOHN SAUSAGE & THE BAYOU BOYS 9:45PM		10:00PM		
10:30PM	NEW CALYPTUS 10-11PM					10:30PM		
11:00PM			AMAIDI 10:30-11:30PM		UNGUS UNGUS UNGUS 10:30-11:30PM	11:00PM		
				SOUL FLAMENCO				

2026 ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

	BUSH TIPI	ON THE GREEN	GRANSTAND BAR	SESSION TIPI	
7:30AM					7:30AM
8:00AM					8:00AM
8:30AM					8:30AM
9:00AM					9:00AM
9:30AM	STORY BEATS 9-9:40AM			BUSH MUSIC CLUB AUSSIE SESSION 9-9:50AM	9:30AM
10:00AM		MAYPOLE MOLLY 9:40AM			10:00AM
10:30AM	ARRR IS FOR ADVENTURE 10-10:40AM			GOOD TUNES SESSION - BOOK 1 10-10:50AM	10:30AM
11:00AM		MAYPOLE MOLLY 10:40AM			11:00AM
11:30AM	GOBSMACKED 11-11:40AM		MENDALA 11:20-12PM	MODERN NYCKELHARPA JOSEFINA PAULSON 11-11:50AM	11:30AM
12:00PM		BLACK JOAK MORRIS 11:40AM			12:00PM
12:30PM	CHA CHA DEL MAR 12-12:40PM		HANDSOME YOUNG STRANGERS - ACOUSTIC 12:20-1PM	IRISH SESSION Host AMAIDI 12-12:50PM	12:30PM
1:00PM		UNI CYCLING 12:40PM			1:00PM
1:30PM	SUPER KENNY & MAGNIFICENT MANDA		WOOLLY YARNS 1:20-2PM	SAPLINGS SESSION 1-1:50PM	1:30PM
2:00PM		BLACK JOAK MORRIS 1:40PM			2:00PM
2:30PM	SEA KINN STORIES 2-2:40PM		NIKRIANN 2:20-3PM	INSTANT CHOIR HAYLEY EGAN 2-2:50PM	2:30PM
3:00PM		JUGGLING 2:40PM			3:00PM
3:30PM	EMMY RYAN & THE HARD TIMES 3-3:40PM		SONGS OF PHIL OCHS 3:20-4PM	AUSSIE CHOONS MICKEY & MICHELLE 3-3:50PM	3:30PM
4:00PM	MARCO & RUSTY 4-4:40PM			CELTIC SESSION Host RENNIE PEARSON 4-4:50PM	4:00PM
4:30PM			LIMONCELLO 4:20-5PM		4:30PM
5:00PM	THE EAR TRUMPET LOUNGE ILLAWARRA FOLK CLUB OPEN MIC 4:45-6:45PM		MICKEY & MICHELLE 5:20-6PM	POETRY WRITING ENOUGH SAID 5-5:50PM	5:00PM
5:30PM					5:30PM
6:00PM			KYARNA 6:20-7PM	SHANTIES AND WORKSONGS 6-6:50PM	6:00PM
6:30PM					6:30PM
7:00PM	EMILY DUNCAN 7-7:40PM		NORTH & ELSEWHERE 7:20-8PM	IRISH SESSION Host MAGGIE CARTY 7-7:50PM	7:00PM
7:30PM					7:30PM
8:00PM	WHEN WOODY MET PETE			BLUEGRASS JAM Host MARK BALLESI 8-8:50PM	8:00PM
8:30PM	MAURIE MULHERON & PETER HICKS 8-8:40PM		THE RED CENTRE SHOW BARRY SKIPSEY 8:20-9:10PM		8:30PM
9:00PM		FIRE SHOW 8:40PM			9:00PM
9:30PM	PIRRITU 9-9:45PM			RANDY DANDY SHANTIES 9-10:30PM	9:30PM
10:00PM			ENOUGH SAID POETRY SLAM 9:30-11PM		10:00PM
10:30PM					
11:00PM			LATE SESSION		
					



BUSH MUSIC CLUB



GOBSMACKED



GOOD TUNES



MAYPOLE WITH MOLLY



LIMONCELLO



LOVE IN THE JUNGLE



NO MORE STRINGS



NO MORE STRINGS

SUNDAY 18 JANUARY

	BLACK DIAMOND	HORSE SHOE	SLACKY FLAT BAR	FOLK GRAND	TIVOLI DANCE HALL	
7:30AM						7:30AM
8:00AM					DRU YOGA 7:45-8:45AM	8:00AM
8:30AM						8:30AM
9:00AM	NIKRIANN 9-9:40AM		ROBERT ZIELINSKI & MANUELA CENTANNI 9-10AM		CHA CHA DEL MAR 9-9:45AM	9:00AM
9:30AM		THE INADEQUATES 9:30-10:30AM		MAGGIE CARTY 9:45-10AM	STEAMPUNK VAGABONDS	9:30AM
10:00AM	MICKEY & MICHELLE 10-11AM					10:00AM
10:30AM			TESSA DEVINE 10:30-11:30AM		THE WATER RUNNERS 10:30-11:15AM	10:30AM
11:00AM		DAN WALSH 11AM-12PM		LIZZIE FLYNN & TRT 11:15AM-12PM	CINNAMON TWIST 11:15AM	11:00AM
11:30AM	SCOTT COOK & PAMELA MAE 11:30AM-12:30PM					11:30AM
12:00PM		RUBY SONG SESSION Host DAVID DE SANTI 12:30-1:30PM	JOSEFINA PAULSON 12-1PM		UNGUS UNGUS UNGUS 12-12:45PM	12:00PM
12:30PM				COMBINED UNION CHOIRS 12:45-1:30PM	STEAMPUNK VAGABONDS	12:30PM
1:00PM	THE PAIRS 1-2PM		FELICITY URQUHART & JOSH CUNNINGHAM 1:30-2:30PM		RUFIOUS WHISTLER 1:30-2:15PM	1:00PM
1:30PM		OLD MAN LUEDECKE 2-3PM		RENNIE PEARSON 2:15-3PM	CINNAMON TWIST 2:15PM	1:30PM
2:00PM			CIGANY WEAVER 3-4PM			2:00PM
2:30PM	DOM TURNER 2:30-3:30PM			GROSSE ISLE 3:45-4:30PM	NEW CALYPTUS 3-3:45PM	2:30PM
3:00PM		ALEX KOSENKO 3:30-4:30PM				3:00PM
3:30PM			THE HIGH STREET DRIFTERS 4:30-5:30PM		SANTA TARANTA 4:30-5:15PM	3:30PM
4:00PM	THE STIFF GINS 4-5PM			JB PATTERSON 5:15-6PM		4:00PM
4:30PM		AMAIDI 5-6PM				4:30PM
5:00PM	KEN FIELD'S HOOT BAND 5:30-6PM					5:00PM
5:30PM	PARADE TO FINALE					5:30PM
6:00PM						6:00PM
6:30PM						6:30PM
7:00PM						7:00PM
7:30PM						7:30PM
8:00PM						8:00PM
8:30PM						8:30PM
	 WHISKEY DRAM		39TH FESTIVAL FINALE CONCERT SPECIAL GUESTS 6:15-7:30PM	 COMBINED UNION CHOIRS		
			RAFFLE & VOLLIES PHOTO			
			FINAL FLING UNGUS UNGUS UNGUS 8-9PM			

VIEW THE PROGRAM ONLINE

scan the code below



CURIOUS RENDITION ORCHESTRA

2026 ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL T-SHIRT



ADULT \$35
YOUTH \$25



AVAILABLE AT
THE FESTIVAL
SHOP

	BUSH TIPI	ON THE GREEN	GRANSTAND BAR	SESSION TIPI	
7:30AM					7:30AM
8:00AM					8:00AM
8:30AM			MORNING POETS 8-9AM BYO POEM		8:30AM
9:00AM	SUPER KENNY & MAGNIFICENT MANDA		FOLKIN' FUNNY SONGS WITH GUESTS 9-10AM	AUSSIE TUNES SESSION Host BUSH MUSIC CLUB 9-9:50AM	9:00AM
9:30AM		MAYPOLE MOLLY 9:40AM			9:30AM
10:00AM	ARRR IS FOR ADVENTURE 10-10:40AM		JOHN DENGATE PARODY CUP 10-11AM	GOOD TUNES SESSION - BOOK 2 10-10:50AM	10:00AM
10:30AM		MAYPOLE MOLLY 10:40AM			10:30AM
11:00AM	PENNY HARTGERINK TRIO 11-11:40AM			MODERN FOLK BANGERS RUFOUS WHISTLER 11-11:50PM	11:00AM
11:30AM		BLACK JOAK MORRIS 11:40AM	SEA KINN STORIES 11:20AM-12PM		11:30AM
12:00PM	LIMONCELLO 12-12:40PM		EMMY RYAN & THE HARD TIMES 12:20-1PM	KEN FIELD'S HOOT SESSION 12-12:50PM	12:00PM
12:30PM		UNI CYCLING 12:40PM			12:30PM
1:00PM	GOBSMAKED 1-1:40PM		NORTH & ELSEWHERE 1:20-2PM	SHANTIES & WORKSONGS 1-1:50PM	1:00PM
1:30PM		BLACK JOAK MORRIS 11:40AM			1:30PM
2:00PM	BARRY SKIPSEY 2-2:40PM		WHEN WOODY MET PETE	IRISH SESSION ROBERT & MANUELA 2-2:50PM	2:00PM
2:30PM		JUGGLING 2:40PM	MAURIE MULHERON & PETER HICKS 2:20-3PM		2:30PM
3:00PM	WHISKEY DRAM 3-3:40PM		PIRRITU 3:20-4PM	CURIOUS RENDITION ORCHESTRA 3-3:50PM	3:00PM
3:30PM					3:30PM
4:00PM	SLIPPERY JOHN SAUSAGE & THE BAYOU BOYS 4PM		POET'S SIESTA 4:20-5PM	SAPLINGS SESSION 4-4:50PM	4:00PM
4:30PM					4:30PM
5:00PM	PAVERTY BUSH BAND 5-5:40PM		PATINA 5:20-6PM	RANDY DANDY SHANTIES 5-6PM	5:00PM
5:30PM					5:30PM

RAFFLE

DRAWN SLACKY FLAT BAR, 7:45PM SUNDAY
1 TICKET for \$5 - 3 TICKETS for \$10

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 WALDEN ACOUSTIC/ELECTRIC GUITAR | PIPERS Wollongong Music Centre \$1849 |
| 2 NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL 2026 | 2 x Festival Pass – value \$872 |
| 3 2027 ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL | Double Festival Pass + camping – value \$480 |
| 4 2026 MALENY MUSIC FESTIVAL | Double Festival Pass + camping – value \$480 |
| 5 2026 COBARGO FOLK FESTIVAL | Double Festival Pass + camping – value \$480 |
| 6 2026 KANGAROO VALLEY FOLK FESTIVAL | Double Festival Pass – value \$400 |
| 7 MASSAGE VOUCHER | Emma Kelly @ Thirroul Natural Healing – value \$220 |
| 8 1-HOUR TRIKE TOUR HARLEY DAVIDSON | Just Cruisin' \$220 |
| 9 BAR HAMPER | Illawarra Folk Festival 2026 value \$150 |
| 10 MERCHANDISE HAMPER | Illawarra Folk Festival 2026 value \$150 |



PIPERS

FEATURE EVENTS

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Presented by **Dr Jodi Edwards**, Cultural Custodian, Story Sharer, Walbanja Yuin, with Dharawal Kinship ties.

FRI 7:15-7:PM Slacky Flat Bar

INSTANT CHOIR

Come and experience the sheer euphoria of raising your voice in song! Hosted by **Hayley Egan** from **Santa Taranta**, this participative singing experience welcomes everyone. Learn simple songs from around the world by ear—no music or experience needed. Hayley's innovative choral approach inspires spontaneous harmonies, using repetition and melody to help voices blend freely in joyful, collective music-making.

FRI 12-1PM Folk School

SAT 2-3PM Session Tipi

SUN 6:15pm Part of Festival Finale



APERITIVO

Join **Santa Taranta** and **David De Santi** and friends for a casual Italian piazza-style concert, enjoying vibrant music while sipping spritzes. Experience an afternoon filled with lively tunes and a taste of Italy!

FRI 3-4PM Tivoli Dance Hall

BLACKBOARD CONCERTS

Chance to perform! See the MC for a spot.

FRI 9-10:30PM Bush Tipi

SAT 4:45-6:45PM Bush Tipi - hosts Marco & Rusty *The Ear Trumpet Lounge - Folk Club Open Mic*

YOUTH TRADITIONS SHOWCASE

Discover talented and up and coming youth folk - singing, playing, hosted **Shalani Thomas** and **Ann Lehmann-Kuit**.

SAT 9-10AM Slacky Flat Bar

SONGS OF PEACE AND HOPE

Maurie Mulheron, Peter Hicks and friends present powerful songs of peace and hope, uplifting spirits with music that champions justice and compassion.

SAT 9-9:45AM Tivoli Dance Hall

KOORI VOICES

Koori Voices is an opportunity to listen and share.

Now in its third year, it is once again hosted by **Dr Jodi Edwards** (NSW), a Walbanja Woman from the Yuin Nation with Dharawal kinship ties. Jodi is an author and story-sharer who has been sharing culture, nature and science for the past 20 years. She will story this session, delighting in the company of three local and wonderful Koori Voices.

This session proudly shares strong women from the local region.

Alara Livingstone, a proud young Yuin woman, began her journey singing in her early years, teaching herself guitar and now performing for audiences. She wowed last year's crowd with originals and cover songs that shared heart, intelligence and calm strength, and we are very much looking forward to hearing this young voice from our local high school on the stage again.

Nicole Smead, Worimi/Birrpaai with strong ties to Dharawal, brings rich sound and tone to the ear. She has studied vocal performance at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, performed as a poet and sound-scape artist, and interacts with nature and technology to create the magic we will experience in this session.

Finally, audiences are invited to share in the joy, sisterhood and uplift of being present with **Mudjingaal Yangamba**. Through the creation and celebration of song, this strong Koori women's choir brings together Elders, Aunties and sisters to revitalise their traditional languages, sharing stories with community for healing, growth and joy. Mudjingaal Yangamba means "Spirit Singing" in Dhurga, one of the original languages spoken on the South Coast of NSW.

SAT 10:30AM-12:30PM Black Diamond

FIDDLE FRENZY 2.0



Fiddle Frenzy returns under the energetic hosting of **Sam De Santi**, bringing together a stellar line-up of festival fiddlers. Expect high-energy performances and virtuosic flair from **Gareth Mewes** (Cigany Weaver), **Mickey O'Donnell**, **Josefina Paulson** with **Jess**

and **Louise, Robert Zelinski, Lucy McKenzie-McHarg** (Rufous Whistler) and **Naomi Jones** (The High Street Drifters).

SAT 1:30-2:30PM Slacky Flat Bar

BUSH DANCE

Enjoy ye olde bush dance with the **Good Tunes Band** and **Paverty Bush Band**.

SAT 3-4PM Tivoli - Good Tunes Band

SAT 4:15-5:15pm Tivoli - Paverty Bush Band

NO MORE SONGS: SONGS & STORY OF PHIL OCHS

Maurie Mulheron, Deanne Dale and Peter Robertson present "No More Songs", a heartfelt tribute to 1960s Greenwich Village songwriter Phil Ochs, spanning biting protest, sharp satire and quietly introspective ballads.

SAT 3:20-4PM Grandstand Bar

WHEN WOODY MET PETE



Folkie veterans **Maurie Mulheron** and **Peter Hicks** celebrate the historic friendship of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger in "When Woody Met Pete", a themed concert touring nationally to enthusiastic folk audience.

SAT 8-8:40PM Bush Tipi

SUN 2:20-3PM Grandstand Bar

BLUEGRASS PICK

Some of the festival hottest pickers - **Dan Walsh, The Inadequates, Rufous Whistler** and **The High Street Drifters** - hit the stage for an all-in, no-rules showdown of smokin' Bluegrass fire.

SAT 6:45-7:30PM Folk Grand

FOLKIN' FUNNY SONGS

Who said folkies only sang about death and disaster, the festival is infested with comedic songwriters and they'll be on display here. Hosted by **Russell Hannah**.

SUN 9-10AM Grandstand Bar



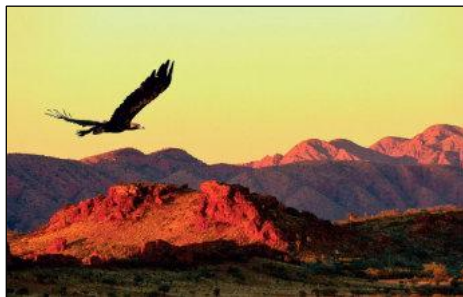
STORYBEATS

JOHN DENGATE PARODY CUP

The John and Dale Dengate Mug, awarded for the best parody or performance at the concert, honors the late John Dengate, a master of parody. **Dale Dengate** will present the award. Parodies, poems, and even non-original works are welcome - all for the glory!

SUN 10-11AM Grandstand Bar

THE RED CENTRE SHOW



Barry Skipsey is a professional photographer of 35 years, voted Australian Geographic's "Photographer of the Year" in 1994. For 27 years in Alice Springs he has presented The Red Centre Show, a multimedia performance combining songs (original and others) with 400 projected images spanning more than four decades of life across the Northern Territory.

SAT 8:20-9:10PM Grandstand Bar

RUBY SONG SESSION



Accordianist and tune collector **David De Santi** leads the Good Tunes sessions, but he also loves a good folk song.

Over four decades he has performed with many traditional folk bands including Wongawilli, the early Settlers Match, Warrabush, The Humphries, I Viaggiatori, Zumpa, John Broomhall Band, Rusty & The Saint, The Con Artists and Big Snore Hammers.

This concert celebrates his 40-year ruby milestone, revisiting favourite folk songs with a host of guest singers.

(Pic - David circa 1995, with mentors John Meredith OAM, extraordinary folklore collector, and Martyn Wyndham-Read, wonderful interpreter of Australian folk songs)

SUN 12:30-1:30PM Horse Shoe

FINALE CONCERT

Join a fantastic lineup of performers to celebrate the 39th festival. Host **Nick Rheinberger** will once again surprise with their sharp, sardonic take on the world.

SUN 6:15-7:30PM Slacky Flat Bar

RAFFLE DRAW VOLUNTEER PHOTO

SUN 7:30-7:45PM Slacky Flat Bar

SESSIONS

Daytime organised sessions will be held in the **Sessions Tipi** near the Festival entry. Late night sessions are welcome and are to be held indoors in the Grandstand Building.

FRIDAY

4-4:50PM Bush Music Club
5-5:50PM RandyDandyShanties
6-7PM Whiskey Dram
7:30-8:20PM Clawhammer Banjo
8:30-9:20PM Old Time Session
9:30-10:30PM Gypsy Jazz

SATURDAY

9-9:50AM Bush Music Club
10-10:50AM Good Tunes Book #1
11-11:50AM Modern Nyckelharpa
12-12:50PM Irish Session - Amaidi
1-1:50PM Saplings
2-2:50PM Instant Choir with Hayley
3-3:50PM Aussie choons - Mickey & Michelle
4-4:50PM Celtic Session Rennie Pearson
5-5:50PM Enough Said Poetry Writing
6-6:50PM Shanties and Worksongs
7-7:50PM Irish Session - Maggie Carty
8-8:50PM Blue Grass Jam - Mark Ballesi
9-10:30PM RandyDandyShanties

SUNDAY

9-9:50AM Bush Music Club
10-10:50AM Good Tunes Book #2
11-11:50AM Modern folk bangers!
12-12:50PM Ken Field's Hoot Jam
1-1:50PM Shanties and Worksongs
2-2:50PM Irish Session - Robert Manuela
3-3:50PM Curious Rendition Orchestra
4-4:50PM Saplings
5-5:50PM RandyDandyShanties

SAPLING SESSIONS

Sapling sessions offer young musicians a fun, informal space to explore Australian music. With music provided for all levels, participants can join in, play together, and enjoy the experience. Bring an instrument or borrow percussion to join the fun!

SAT 1PM Session Tipi

SUN 5PM Session Tipi

GRANDSTAND BAR LATE SESSIONS

A noise curfew will apply to all camping areas after 10pm. Anyone wishing to party on can go to the Grandstand Bar area inside the Grandstand Building.

Please keep all sessions inside the building. Please be courteous of other campers and festival neighbours when returning to camp.

THU 10PM, FRI 10:30PM, SAT 11PM

SPOKEN WORD

Bring your poem and join the festival poets **Robyn Sykes, Stonybrooke, Peter Mace and Russell Hannah**.

FRI 3-5PM Grandstand Bar *Arvo Poets*

SAT 8-9:45AM Grandstand Bar *Morning Poets*

SUN 8-9AM Grandstand Bar *Morning Poets*

SUN 4:20-5PM Grandstand Bar *Poet's Siesta*

WOOLLY YARNS

Your chance to take out some of the great prizes on offer just by telling the odd tale or two. Truth is not an issue though laying claim to it is essential. Only one rule - all yarns must be no longer than five minutes or the gong applies.

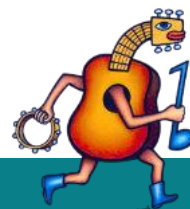
SAT 1:20-2PM Grandstand Bar

ENOUGH SAID POETS

Enough Said Poetry Slam is the South Coast's only monthly medley of spoken word poetry. Serving up finger-snap worthy poetry on Dharawal land since 2012. Hosted by poet and slam-runner Adara Enthaler, the Enough Said Late Night Poetry will feature talented local emerging poets confiding their intimate, amusing, tragic, sultry secrets through spoken word.

SAT 5-5:50PM Sessions Tipi

SAT 9:30-11PM Grandstand Bar





ALARA
LIVINGSTONE



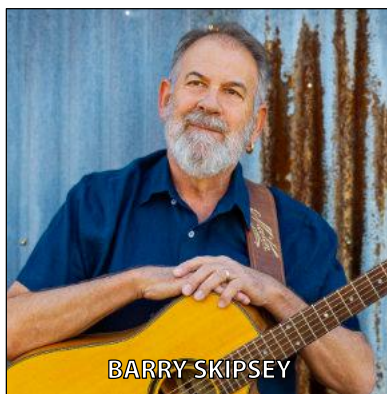
ALEX KOSENKO



AMAIDI



ANDY OPHEE AND THE
OVERNIGHT LOWS



BARRY SKIPSEY



BLACK JOAK MORRIS

2026 ARTISTS

ALARA LIVINGSTONE

Alara Livingstone, a proud young Yuin woman, began singing early, taught herself guitar, and now performs for audiences. She impressed last year with heartfelt originals and covers, and we're excited to welcome this talented local high schooler back to the stage.

SAT 10:30AM-12:30PM Black Diamond

ALEX KOSENKO

Alex Kosenko is a Brisbane-based independent artist whose music blends Blues, Folk and Roots. His one-man shows feature kick drum, tambourine, howling harmonica, bluesy guitar and soulful vocals, creating an energetic and captivating live experience.

SAT 8:15-9PM Folk Grand

SUN 3:30-4:30PM Horse Shoe

AMAIDI

Amairí delivers electrifying neo-trad with driving rhythms and a fresh modern edge. Rooted in Irish, Scottish, and Australian traditions, they bring blistering reels, powerhouse songs, and soul-stirring ballads that stop time in their tracks. Fierce, fresh, and impossible to resist.

FRI 12-1PM Folk School *DADGAD guitar*

FRI 1-2PM Folk School *Elevate your Irish Fiddle*

FRI 10-11PM Black Diamond

SAT 12-12:50PM Session Tipi Session

SAT 1:30-2:30PM Slacky Flat Bar *Fiddle Frenzy*

SAT 10:30-11:30PM Slacky Flat Bar

SUN 5-6PM Horse Shoe

ANDY OPHEE AND THE OVERNIGHT LOWS

Andy Ophee is a singer songwriter from the Illawarra who has recently released the album *Wild Frontier*. A collection of songs that looks into the past while making our way through uncertain times. Mixing a blend of Country, Folk and Blues roots, The Overnight Lows will have the audience laughing crying and dancing.

SAT 7:30-8:15PM Tivoli Dance Hall

BARRY SKIPSEY

Singer-Songwriter Barry Skipsey hales from Alice Springs. His early songs chronicle a young man's life in the iconic outback. As a grandfather, he'll take you on a humorous and nostalgic journey with his songs of mayhem and family life. Skipsey is a true Australian Storyteller, drawing you into his world.

SAT 9:30-10:30AM Horse Shoe

SAT 8:20-9:10PM Grandstand Bar
The Red Centre Show

SUN 2-2:40PM Bush Tipi

BLACK JOAK MORRIS

Black Joak Morris performs traditional Cotswold Morris from the English countryside, with energetic dancing, bright costumes, loud bells and live music from Sydney-based musicians, delighting and mystifying audiences of all ages.

SAT 11:40AM-12PM On The Green

SAT 1:40-2PM On The Green

SAT 5:15-5:45PM Tivoli Dance Hall

SUN 11:40AM-12PM On The Green

SUN 1:30-1:50PM On The Green

BLACKBOARD

A chance to shine!
See the MC for a spot.

FRI 9-10:30PM Bush Tipi

SAT 4:45-6:45PM Bush Tipi

The Ear Trumpet Lounge - Folk Club Open Mic

BUSH MUSIC CLUB INC (NSW)

The Bush Music Club, founded in 1954, promotes Australian folk songs, tunes, dances and folklore, inviting musicians of all levels to learn yesteryear's music at a comfortable pace, with notation provided for those who read.

FRI 9-10AM Folk School *Aussie folk tunes*

FRI 4-4:50PM Session Tipi

SAT 9-9:50AM Session Tipi

SUN 9-9:50PM Session Tipi

CHA CHA DEL MAR

This Latin jazz/folk trio blends Afro-Colombian rhythms, Colombian cumbia, Mexican folk, Cuban salsa and Brazilian samba, featuring vocals, guitar, clarinet, saxophone, percussion and charango, performing across the Illawarra and South Coast for over five years.

SAT 12-12:40PM Bush Tipi

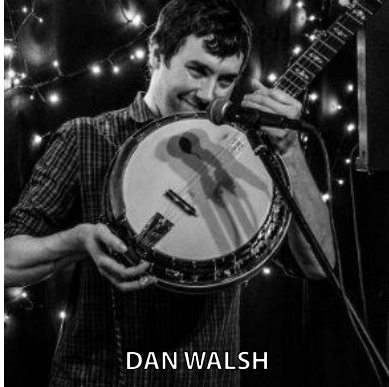
SUN 9-9:45AM Tivoli Dance Hall

CIGANY WEAVER

Cigany Weaver started as a Gypsy Jazz band, and has evolved into a variety of soft yearning folk music, cinematic instrumentals, Romani and Balkan energy, and classic swing. Powered by Jo Davie's soaring vocals, fiery violin, 'Pompe-ing' guitars, and driving rhythm section. Cigany Weaver create a purely acoustic group that effortlessly



CHA CHA DEL MAR



DAN WALSH



CIGANY WEAVER



CINNAMON TWIST



DOM TURNER



DR JODI EDWARDS



DANIEL DI BIASE

navigates the musical nexus between intimacy and raucousness.

THU 9:15-10PM Tivoli Dance Hall

FRI 11AM-12PM Folk School

Beginners Gypsy Jazz (all instruments)

FRI 4:15-5PM Tivoli Dance Hall

FRI 9:30-10:30PM Session Tipi Gypsy Jazz

SAT 1:30-2:30PM Slacky Flat Bar

Fiddle Frenzy - Gareth Mewes

SAT 7-8PM Black Diamond

SUN 3-4PM Slacky Flat Bar

CINNAMON TWIST BELLY DANCE

Cinnamon Twist Belly Dance, Wollongong's longest-running Middle Eastern and belly dance centre, presents vibrant, interactive shows of swirling skirts, heartbeat rhythms and cheeky flair, inspiring audiences across the Illawarra to leave their seats and dance.

FRI 2-3PM Folk School Turkish Belly Dance

SUN 11:15-11:45AM Tivoli Dance Hall

SUN 2:15-2:45PM Tivoli Dance Hall

COMBINED UNION CHOIRS

The combined union choirs concert will bring comradery, audience participation, and passion, featuring songs on social justice, peace and traditional union anthems for everyone to sing along to.

SUN 12:45-1:30PM Folk Grand

CURIOUS RENDITION ORCHESTRA

The Curious Rendition Orchestra is a fun, inclusive community ensemble from Wollongong, performing an eclectic global repertoire at local events and festivals including Illawarra Folk

Festival, HONK! Oz and Perisher Peak, with an energetic, engaging stage presence.

SUN 3-3:50PM Session Tipi

DAN WALSH ^{UK}

BBC Folk Awards Best Musician nominee Dan Walsh combines 'virtuoso playing and winning songwriting'. At the heart of it is British, Irish and American folk music delivered with a healthy dose of funky grooves – all performed with his unique and dazzling take on clawhammer style banjo.

FRI 4-4:45PM Bush Tipi

FRI 7:30-8:20PM Session Tipi

Clawhammer Banjo-Workshop

SAT 12:45-1:30PM Folk Grand

SAT 6:45-7:30PM Folk Grand Bluegrass Pick

SUN 11AM-12PM Horse Shoe

DANIEL DI BIASE

Blue Mountains multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Daniel Di Biase blends country, traditional folk and old-time influences with delicate storytelling, delivering sombre yet sweet performances where gentle vocals and nuanced playing give audiences all the feels.

FRI 7:35-8:20PM Grandstand Bar

SAT 9:45-10:30AM Folk Grand

DOM TURNER

Voted Traditional Blues Artist of the Year in 2022, 2024 and 2025 by the Sydney Blues Society, Dom Turner is a multi-award-winning Australian blues musician best known as guitarist, bottleneck slide guitarist, lead vocalist, and founding member of the acclaimed hybrid-blues group Backsliders. His international work includes touring and

recording with Mississippi hill-country legend R.L. Boyce, Sacred Steel virtuoso Nikki Brown, and US harmonica master Phil Wiggins.

SAT 4:30-5:30PM Slacky Flat Bar

SUN 2:30-3:30PM Black Diamond

DR JODI EDWARDS

Dr. Jodi Edwards (NSW) is a Walbanja Woman from the Yuin Nation with Dharawal Kinship ties. Jodi is an Author, Story Sharer, who has been sharing Culture, Nature and Science for the past 20yrs. Her stories have been woven through hands on experiences of fish netting, canoe making, possum skin cloaking, and on Country experiences. Her work is displayed in many locations including The Museum of Australia.

FRI 7:15-7:30PM Slacky Flat Bar

Welcome to Country

SAT 10:30AM-12:30PM Black Diamond

Koori Voices

SAT 2-2:40PM Bush Tipi

Sea Kinn Stories

SUN 11:20AM-12PM Grandstand Bar

Sea Kinn Stories

DRU YOGA

Erika and Fiona have led uplifting Dru yoga at Illawarra Folk Festival since 2011, blending yoga wisdom with a fun, safe, down-to-earth style that gently stretches, energises and deeply relaxes festivalgoers to start their day.

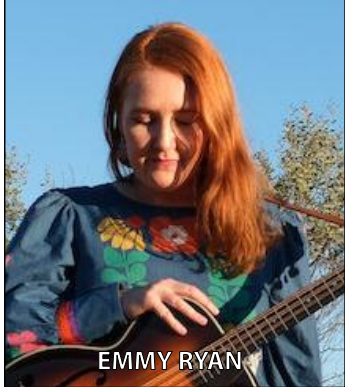
SAT, SUN 7:45M-8:45AM Tivoli Dance Hall

EMILY DUNCAN

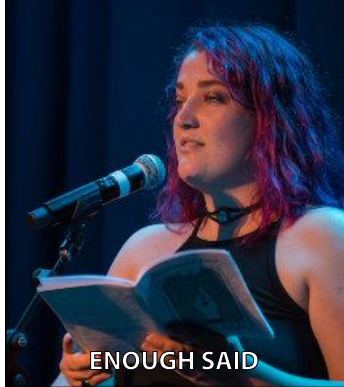
Emily Duncan weaves a dreamy tapestry of ethereal vocals and introspective lyrics over guitar. Performing and living



EMILY DUNCAN



EMMY RYAN



ENOUGH SAID



JB PATERSON



GROSSE ISLE



FELICITY URQUHART &
JOSH CUNNINGHAM

in the Illawarra, Emily's music has captured local audiences for over a decade through story and song.

SAT 7-7:40PM Bush Tipi

EMMY RYAN AND THE HARD TIMES

Emmy's music carries the weight of solitude and the warmth of solidarity, with soul-stirring vocals, intricate guitar and mandolin playing, and lyrics that land straight in the heart. The Hard Times (aka AFMA 2024 'Duo of the Year' finalists Broken Creek) join Emmy to create a sublime blend of traditional and contemporary song.

THU 8:30-9PM Grandstand Bar

FRI 4-5PM Folk School

The revolutionary art of the protest song

FRI 6:30-7:15PM Folk Grand

FRI 8:30-9:20PM Session Tipi Old Time Session

SAT 3-3:40PM Bush Tipi

SUN 12:20-1PM Grandstand Bar

ENOUGH SAID POETRY SLAM

Enough Said Poetry Slam, the South Coast's only monthly slam, showcases local, interstate and international spoken word artists, running regular slams and workshops while its core poets appear at festivals from Sydney to Shellharbour.

FRI 9-10AM Folk School Writing Slam Poetry

SAT 5-5:50PM Session Tipi Poetry Writing

SAT 9:30-11PM Grandstand Bar

FELICITY URQUHART & JOSH CUNNINGHAM

Golden Guitar-winning, ARIA-nominated duo Felicity Urquhart and Josh Cunningham, dubbed "queen of

country" and "folk rock royalty", share rare musical chemistry in songs that transcend genre and time.

SAT 1-2PM Black Diamond

SUN 1:30-2:30PM Slacky Flat Bar

GOBSMACKED!

From deep-underwater sea shanties to sky-high dragon battles, the dynamic Gobsmaeked duo, Bertie & Louie, will thrill with fractious folktales, and weird and wacky songs. With all new stories and songs from their Hungarian & Scots background, done in their usual zany interactive style!

SAT 11-11:40AM Bush Tipi

SUN 1-1:40PM Bush Tipi

GOOD TUNES

Accordianist and tune collector David De Santi leads the Good Tunes sessions, sharing lively, danceable tunes from all over the world. Sheet music available.

RUBY SONG SESSION For over four decades David has performed in many traditional folk bands including Wongawilli, the early Settlers Match and Warrabush, The Humphries, I Viaggiatori, John Broomhall Band, Rusty & The Saint, The Con Artists and Big Snore Hammers. Sunday's special concert marks his 40 year ruby celebration, revisiting favourite folk songs with a host of guest singers.

FRI 3-4PM Tivoli Dance Hall
Aperitivo Hour - Italian Good Tunes, Santa Taranta

SAT 10-10:50AM Session Tipi Book #1

SAT 3-4PM Tivoli Dance Hall Bush Dance

SUN 10-10:50AM Session Tipi Book #2

SUN 12:30-1:30PM Horse Shoe

Ruby Song Session with a selection of singers

GROSSE ISLE CANADA/IRELAND

Québec-Ireland trio Grosse Isle weave Irish, French and English songs and tunes into powerful stories of migration and folklore, led by Fiachra O'Regan, Sophie Lavoie and François-Félix Roy, acclaimed on stages worldwide.

FRI 11AM-12PM Folk School

Songs and folklore of Ireland and Québec

FRI 2-3PM Folk School Uilleann Pipes

FRI 4:45-5:45PM Horse Shoe

SAT 5:30-6:30PM Black Diamond

SUN 3:45-4:30PM Folk Grand

HANDSOME YOUNG STRANGERS

Legendary Sydney folk-bush-punk band Handsome Young Strangers deliver high-intensity Australian songs from rowdy pubs to major festival stages, guaranteed to get audiences out of their seats and maybe wondering what happened to their beer.

FRI 10:30-11:30PM Tivoli Dance Hall

SAT 12:20-1PM Grandstand Bar Acoustic

JB PATERSON

JB Paterson & Rebecca Cunningham bring JB's acclaimed songwriting to life as a duo. Their live shows are a journey in songwriting, rich with musicianship, storytelling, and plenty of stage banter. With JB on guitar, Rebecca on banjo, they deliver intimate performances that capture the heart of folk music.

FRI 5:15-6PM Grandstand Bar

SAT 12:30-1:30PM Horse Shoe

SUN 5:15-6PM Folk Grand



JOSEFINA PAULSON



KEN FIELD'S HOOTBAND



KYARNA



LIZZIE FLYNN & THE RUNAWAY TRAINS



MAGGIE CARTY

JOSEFINA PAULSON ^{SWEDEN} WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

A riksspelman (master) of the modern nyckelharpa, Josefina Paulson returns to Australia for a special collaboration celebrating an eight-year musical friendship. With her husband, acclaimed double bassist Frederik Bengtsson, she joins Big Fiddle Little Fiddle (Louise Godwin, cello; Jessica Foot, violin, hardanger fiddle, oboe) to blend Nordic traditions and new compositions into a vibrant cross-cultural soundscape.

FRI 6-7PM Black Diamond
SAT 11-11:50AM Session Tipi
Modern Nyckelharpa-Workshop
SAT 1:30-2:30PM Slacky Flat Bar *Fiddle Frenzy*
SAT 6:30-7:30PM Horse Shoe
SUN 12-1PM Slacky Flat Bar

KATHRYN ROBERTS PARKER

Kathryn Roberts Parker is a multi-award-winning folk musician, composer, academic and arts leader. With a PhD from the University of Sydney and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship in the UK, she co-founded Matriark Theatre and creates bold, community-focused works.

FRI 9-10AM Folk School
Youth Traditions 1 - Songs & Tunes
FRI 4-5PM Folk School
Youth Traditions 5 - Collaboration

KEN FIELD'S ^{USA} HOOTBAND

The Hootband is a pick-up band led by Boston-based saophonist/composer Ken Field, playing traditional New Orleans brass band music, surprising covers, and Ken's original compositions. It is open to all interested brass band musicians.

FRI 3-4PM Folk School
New Orleans Hoot Band
SAT 9-10AM Black Diamond
SUN 12-12:50PM Session Tipi
SUN 5:30-6PM Black Diamond
SUN 6-6:15PM Slacky Flat Bar *Parade*

KOORI VOICES CONCERT

Hosted by **Dr Jodi Edwards**, Koori Voices features powerful performances from **Alara Livingstone**, sound-scape artist **Nicole Smede**, and the uplifting women's choir **Mudjingaal Yangamba**, sharing stories, song and culture from Yuin, Dharawal, Worimi and Birrpai communities.

SAT 10:30AM-12:30PM Black Diamond

KYARNA

Kyarna, a Yuin Nation singer-songwriter, brings soulful, story-rich songs shaped by lived experience and culture. She has shared stages with Troy Cassar-Daley, Paul Kelly and Casey Donovan, and champions Aboriginal girls and women through empowering artistry.

SAT 6:20-7PM Grandstand Bar

LIMONCELLO

Limoncello, a Colombian-Latvian duo, create playful, heartwarming shows for children, families and adults, blending global rhythms, storytelling and original songs, alongside deep community work through Wollongong Conservatorium and early childhood music programs.

FRI 4-5PM Folk School
Songs and rhythms from different cultures
SAT 4:20-5PM Grandstand Bar
SUN 12-12:40PM Bush Tipi

LIZZIE FLYNN & THE RUNAWAY TRAINS

Lizzie Flynn mixes lyrical honesty, catchy melodies and a cheeky touch of storytelling. With The Runaway Trains, Gareth Mewes, Benja King and Sam De Santi, they roll out from station to station, blending country and Celtic vibes and leading everyone to joyful musical destinations.

FRI 5:45-6:30PM Tivoli Dance Hall
SAT 5-6PM Horse Shoe
SUN 11:15AM-12PM Folk Grand

LOVE IN THE JUNGLE

Love In The Jungle serve salt-laced contemporary acoustic folk with world percussion and Indigenous sounds, mixing local history, political commentary and humour into energetic, thought-provoking shows that invite audiences to "rumble with the Jungle".

FRI 9-9:45PM Tivoli Dance Hall

MAGGIE CARTY

From Ireland's west coast, banjo player and singer Maggie Carty brings a soulful, driving energy to Irish folk music. Now Melbourne-based, she blends bluesy undertones, evocative vocals, and contemporary influences to reimagine tradition. Her powerhouse trio and debut album *Ebb and Flow* breathe new life into timeless songs.

FRI 7:30-8:15PM Tivoli Dance Hall
SAT 2-3PM Horse Shoe
SAT 7-7:50PM Session Tipi *Irish Session*
SUN 9:45-10:30AM Folk Grand



MARCO & RUSTY



PETER & MAURIE



MICKEY & MICHELLE



NEW CALYPTUS



MUDJINGAAL YANGAMBA



NICK RHEINBERGER

MARCO AND RUSTY

'Marco and Rusty' brings together established acoustic musicians who share a love of the singer/songwriter and Americana traditions. Their rich vocal harmonies and down-to-earth instrumentation on guitar, banjo, dobro and acoustic-bass bring to life timeless songs in their presentation of 'An Americana Songbook'.

THU 7:30-8PM Grandstand Bar

SAT 4-4:40PM Bush Tipi

SAT 4:45-6:45PM Bush Tipi

The Ear Trumpet Lounge - Folk Club Open Mic

MARK BALLESI

Returning to his songwriter roots after decades exploring bluegrass and old-time country music, multi-instrumentalist Mark Ballesi takes you from gentle home-made songs of heartbreak and joy to foot-stomping country blues and old-time classics.

FRI 5-5:45PM Bush Tipi

SAT 8-8:50PM Session Tipi *Bluegrass Jam*

MAURIE MULHERON & PETER HICKS

Folkie veterans Maurie and Peter celebrate the historic friendship of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger in "When Woody Met Pete", a themed concert touring nationally to enthusiastic folk audience.

FRI 10-11AM Folk School
Guitar finger picking for beginners

SAT 9M-9:45AM Tivoli Dance Hall
Songs of Hope and Peace

SAT 8-8:40PM Bush Tipi *Woody & Pete*

SUN 2:20-3PM Grandstand Bar *Woody & Pete*

MAURIE MULHERON, DEANNE DALE & PETER ROBERTSON

Maurie Mulheron, Deanne Dale and Peter Robertson present "No More Songs", a heartfelt tribute to 1960s Greenwich Village songwriter Phil Ochs, spanning biting protest, sharp satire and quietly introspective ballads.

SAT 3:20-4PM Grandstand Bar

No More Songs: Songs & Story of Phil Ochs

MAYPOLE WITH MOLLY

Maypole with Molly offers joyful, family-friendly maypole dancing where children and adults weave colourful ribbons together; founded in 2009 by retired early childhood teacher Erika Cleaver, the group shares playful tradition at festivals across Australia.

SAT, SUN 9:40-10AM On The Green

SAT, SUN 10:40-11AM On The Green

MENDALA

Northern Illawarra four-piece Mendala reunite after fifteen years, bringing multi-instrumental textures, harmonies, original songs and inventive twists on well-known favourites.

FRI 3-3:40PM Bush Tipi

SAT 11:20AM-12PM Grandstand Bar

MICKEY & MICHELLE

Descending from the mountains are harp and fiddle extravaganza Mickey & Michelle, whose energetic and virtuosic performances have captured hearts throughout Australia and New Zealand. Often described as the highlight of the festival, Mickey & Michelle weave a gorgeous 'chamber-folk' tapestry of

original Celtic music infused with vocal harmony and fiery improvisations.

FRI 2-3PM

Folk School

Learning tunes by ear (intermediate)

FRI 4:20-5:20PM

Slacky Flat Bar

SAT 1:30-2:30PM

Slacky Flat Bar *Fiddle Frenzy*

SAT 3-3:50PM

Session Tipi *Aussie choons!*

SAT 5:20-6PM

Grandstand Bar

SUN 10-11AM

Black Diamond

MUDJINGAAL YANGAMBA

Through the creation and celebration of song, this strong Koori women's choir brings together Elders, Aunties and sisters to revitalise their traditional languages, sharing stories with community for healing, growth and joy. Mudjingaal Yangamba means "Spirit Singing" in Dhurga, one of the original languages spoken on the South Coast of NSW.

SAT 10:30AM-12:30PM Black Diamond

NEW CALYPTUS

New Calyptus are a folk-influenced indie band who have played in the Wollongong and Sydney music scenes. With a unique and versatile sound, their sets bring out dancey highs and also moments of emotional intensity and reflection, sharing a message of optimism and openness.

SAT 10-11PM

Black Diamond

SUN 3-3:45PM

Tivoli Dance Hall

NICOLE SMEDE

Nicole Smede, Worimi/Birrpa with strong ties to Dharawal, brings rich sound and tone to the ear. She has studied vocal performance at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music,



PAVERTY BUSH BAND



PENELOPE CHURCH



OLD MAN LUEDECKE



PATINA



NIKRIANN



ONE SPIRIT AFRICA



PENNY HARTGERINK



NORTH & ELSEWHERE

performed as a poet and soundscape artist, and interacts with nature and technology to create the magic we will experience in this session.

SAT 10:30AM-12:30PM Black Diamond

NICK RHEINBERGER

An Illawarra Folkie veteran, Nick's shows are a unique mix of quirky instruments, laughs, yarns, poems and singalongs. Nick's also an ABC Illawarra presenter, as well as the composer of "Gladys: a musical affair" and "Watch and Act" the Black Summer rock opera. You might get a preview of his latest musical, and who knows who'll pop up to play with him? One show only!.

FRI 7:45-8:45PM Bush Tipi

NIKRIANN

Nikriann will take you on an exquisite journey back in time and place to hear ageless tales of love, loss and comradeship from the perspective of women. Nikriann feature the divine, pure voice of Nicole Murphy, the passionate cello virtuosity of Rita Woolhouse, the tender guitar playing of Ann Lehmann-Kuit and the haunting whistle playing of Johnny Spillane.

FRI 10-11AM Folk School
Arranging music and playing off the page

SAT 2:20-3PM Grandstand Bar

SUN 9-9:40AM Black Diamond

NORTH AND ELSEWHERE

Hazel and Roanna Law (North and Elsewhere) were raised on folk music and family harmonies, which remain at the core of their performance and songwriting style. Backed with acoustic and bass guitar; they sing of nature, childhood, the fast-paced and

sometimes harsh world we live in, and the connectedness of all things.

FRI 11AM-12PM Folk School

Youth Traditions 2-Song writing

FRI 1-2PM Folk School

Youth Traditions 3-Harmony singing

FRI 5-5:45PM Folk Grand

SAT 7:20-8PM Grandstand Bar

SUN 1:20-2PM Grandstand Bar

OLD MAN LUEDECKE CANADA

Old Man Luedecke is one of Canada's best loved and most intriguing roots singer-songwriters. Known for his masterful banjo playing, he was born and raised in Toronto and now lives rurally on the south shore of Nova Scotia. With a storyteller's heart, his narrative-driven songs are playful, coy and soul-warming.

FRI 8:15-9PM Folk Grand

SAT 2:30-3:30PM Black Diamond

SUN 2-3PM Horse Shoe

ONE SPIRIT AFRICA

One Spirit Africa, led by Ghanaian multi-instrumentalist and award-winning performer Fred Nii Addo, blends traditional Ghanaian rhythms with modern Afro-fusion. Based in Accra and Melbourne, the band brings powerful harmonies, vibrant culture and global touring experience to create an electrifying, contemporary Afro-beat sound.

FRI 10:30-11:30PM Slacky Flat Bar

SAT 9-10PM Slacky Flat Bar

PATINA

Patina is a trio performing original, globe-trotting folk infused with Balkan,

Klezmer and tango colours, sometimes veering into folk-punk, as their songs dance playfully between sweetness and driving, upbeat energy.

FRI 6-7PM Bush Tipi

SAT 2:15-3PM Folk Grand

SUN 5:20-6PM Grandstand Bar

PAVERTY BUSH BAND

Paverty Bush Band brings the heart of the Australian bush to the stage with vibrant original songs, rich harmonies and lively fiddle, flute, mandolin, bass and guitar. Their stories and energy create tradition-steeped performances that truly embody life in the bush.

FRI 3:30-4:20PM Horse Shoe

SAT 4:15-5:15PM Tivoli Dance Hall Bush Dance

SUN 5-5:40PM Bush Tipi

PENELOPE CHURCH

Illawarra songwriter Penelope Church pairs soaring vocals with acoustic guitar, crafting songs inspired by her coastal home and contemporary women songwriters, and is currently writing and recording her debut EP.

THU 6:15-6:55PM Tivoli Dance Hall

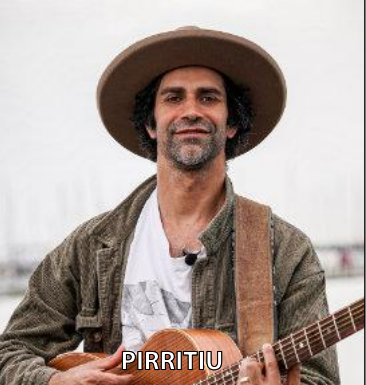
SAT 11AM-12PM Horse Shoe

PENNY HARTGERINK TRIO

Penny Hartgerink is back with close friends Tess Hathaway and Izaak Blomley after an 11-year break. The trio started singing together at Kiama High 25 years ago and will perform enchanting three-part harmonies and a mix of original material and songs by their favourite artists including Emmylou Harris, Lucinda Williams and Bob Dylan.

SAT 10:30-11:15AM Tivoli Dance Hall

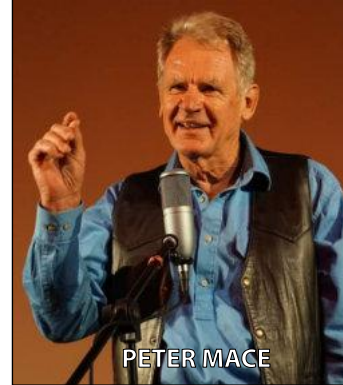
SUN 11-11:40AM Bush Tipi



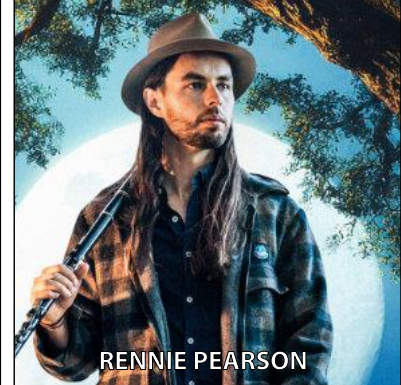
PIRRITU



ROBERT ZIELINSKI
MANUELA CENTANNI



PETER MACE



RENNIE PEARSON



RANDY DANDY SHANTIES



RUFOUS WHISTLER



SAPLINGS

PETER MACE

Peter is a performance bush poet and writer who has entertained audiences at most of the country's major festivals and poetry competitions. He may have you laughing one minute and shedding a tear the next, but either way will be sure to entertain.

FRI 3-5PM Grandstand Bar *Arvo Poets*
SAT 8-9:45AM Grandstand Bar *Morning Poets*
SUN 8-9AM Grandstand Bar *Morning Poets*
SUN 4:20-5PM Grandstand Bar *Poets Siesta*

PIRRITU

Pirritu's music is a gentle, honest, and melodic personal journey that entices you into the depths of sadness, love, and shimmering hope. With two album releases under his belt, he honours a cultural journey to connect back to land, language, and family with a continual thirst for deeper understanding of his people and country. His music features folk instrumentation weaving amongst his unique vocals like the gentle wind and waters that the Ngilyampaa man sings of.

FRI 3-3:50PM Slacky Flat Bar
SAT 9-9:45PM Bush Tipi
SUN 3:20-4PM Grandstand Bar

RANDYDANDYSHANTIES

Originating from a small, noisy bar in Redfern and expanding around Sydney, Shanty Club believes quite simply that everyone can sing... they've just forgotten how. Come and join in with songs of the sea. Sing a harmony. Make some noise. Forget the words. It's group karaoke done loud and right!

FRI 5-5:50PM Session Tipi
SAT 9-10:30PM Session Tipi
SUN 5-6PM Session Tipi

RENNIE PEARSON NZ

Rennie Pearson delivers dynamic, heartfelt Celtic music rooted in Irish, Scottish and Canadian traditions. A master of multiple instruments, he blends driving tunes and emotive airs with engaging storytelling. He is joined by NZ guitarist and singer Kushla Kozeluh for a rich, vibrant performance.

FRI 6:15-7:10PM Horse Shoe
SAT 10:30-11:30AM Slacky Flat Bar
SAT 4-4:50PM Session Tipi *Session Host*
SUN 2:15-3PM Folk Grand

ROBERT ZIELINSKI & MANUELA CENTANNI

Robert Zielinski and Manuela Centanni perform traditional Irish and original tunes on wooden flute and fiddle, noted for their distinctive tone, tight unison playing and evocative arrangements inspired by Western Australia's south-west coast.

FRI 9:45-10:30PM Grandstand Bar
SAT 10-11AM Grandstand Bar
SAT 1:30-2:30PM Slacky Flat Bar *Fiddle Frenzy*
SUN 9-10AM Slacky Flat Bar
SUN 2-2:50PM Session Tipi *Session Host*

ROBYN SYKES

Robyn Sykes is a multi-awarded spoken word artist who performs original, quirky poetry. Humour, pathos, social awareness, authenticity: her shows have the lot. The dynamic performer is as a Living Legend of Australian Poetry, inducted into the Australian Poetry Hall of Fame at Guyra in 2023.

FRI 10-11AM Folk School
Nature inspired prose and poetry
FRI 3-5PM Grandstand Bar *Arvo Poets*

SAT 8-9:45AM Grandstand Bar *Morning Poets*
SUN 8-9AM Grandstand Bar *Morning Poets*
SUN 4:20-5PM Grandstand Bar *Poets Siesta*

RUFOUS WHISTLER

Rufous Whistler delivers electrifying, harmony-rich alt-folk that's as cheeky as it is heartfelt. They blend raw storytelling with fiery musicianship, captivating audiences with soaring fiddle, driving rhythms, and rich harmonies. Expect high-energy, humour, and songs that hit home. Rufous Whistler are touring in support of their album *National Panic*.

FRI 5:50-6:50PM Slacky Flat Bar
SAT 1:30-2:30PM Slacky Flat Bar *Fiddle Frenzy*
SAT 4-5PM Black Diamond
SAT 6:45-7:30PM Folk Grand *Bluegrass Pick*
SUN 11-11:50AM Session Tipi *Bluegrass Host*
SUN 1:30-2:15PM Tivoli Dance Hall

RUSSELL HANNAH

A tormenter of accordion players and a lover of tripe, the cuddly president of the Illawarra Folk Club, aka Sir BigRuss will be spotted at spoken word gigs all over the place. Has attended every Illawarra Folk Festival since the inception!

FRI 3-5PM Grandstand Bar *Arvo Poets*
SAT 1:20-2PM Grandstand Bar *Woolly Yarns*
SAT 8-9:45AM Grandstand Bar *Morning Poets*
SUN 8-9AM Grandstand Bar *Morning Poets*
SUN 9-10AM Grandstand Bar
Folkin Funny Songs with guests
SUN 10-11AM Grandstand Bar
John Dengate Parody Cup - BYO Parody
SUN 4:20-5PM Grandstand Bar *Poets Siesta*



SHALANI



SCOTT COOK & PAMELA MAE



ROBYN SYKES



SANTA TARANTA



SUPER KENNY AND
MAGNIFICENT MANDA



SHANTIES & WORKSONGS



SEA KINN STORIES

SANTA TARANTA

Santa Taranta is an eclectic ensemble that interpret and create music inspired by the southern Italian oral music tradition. The band proudly presents traditional music with a contemporary twist. This trio of talented musicians will take you on a journey through songs of love, healing and migration.

FRI 12-1PM Folk School

Instant choir-Hayley Egan

FRI 12-1PM Folk School Italian Drums

FRI 3-4PM Tivoli Dance Hall
Aperitivo Hour Good Tunes & Santa Taranta

SAT 2-2:50PM Session Tipi

Instant Choir with Hayley

SAT 8:30-9:30PM Black Diamond

SUN 4:30-5:15PM Tivoli Dance Hall

SAPLINGS

Youth musicians aged 8–18 can join daily sessions to learn Australian tunes, songs or percussion. Bring your instrument, music provided or play by ear. Percussion available to borrow, with friendly Bush Music Club tutors supporting all skill levels.

SAT 1-1:50PM Session Tipi

SUN 4-4:50PM Session Tipi

SCOTT COOK & PAMELA MAE ^{CAN}

On his eleventh Australian tour, award-winning Canadian songwriter Scott Cook returns with his sweetheart Pamela Mae on upright bass and his eighth album *Troubadourly Yours*, packaged in a hardcover book of road stories and ruminations. Fresh from the ever-winding trail, these are sturdy, straight-talking songs that see the good in you.

FRI 1-2PM

Song Structure as a Key to Creativity

FRI 3-4PM

Stagecraft-Getting Out of the Song's Way

FRI 6:20-7:10PM

Grandstand Bar

SAT 12-1PM

Slacky Flat Bar

SUN 11:30AM-12:30PM Black Diamond

SEA KINN STORIES

Dr Jodi Edwards walks with the stories of her Ancestors, weaving Sea Country, kinship, and culture into every word she shares. Rooted in the deep traditions of Aboriginal Story Sharing, Jodi invites listeners on a journey that flows like saltwater—connecting hearts, minds, and spirits to Country.

When she speaks, performs, or teaches, she leaves the salt and water inside you, a ripple of connection that binds kin and sea as one. A proud Aboriginal woman, is one of many leading voices behind *Unbroken Whispers*, *The Ripples* *Connecting Sea Kin*. This connection is a movement of story, memory, and the ever-present ripples of sea kin. Her work lives in the space where cultural practice meets academic excellence, where bilingual Dharawal publications echo ancient voices in contemporary forms.

Lilli is an award winning, critically acclaimed oral storyteller who has performed nationally and internationally in theatres and on festival main stages. In the past decade she has focused her curiosity and story research on stories of mermaids and mer-creatures, creating the program *Mermaids - the original environmentalists*.

SAT 2-2:40PM

Bush Tipi

SUN 11:20AM-12PM Grandstand Bar

Folk School

Folk School

Grandstand Bar

Slacky Flat Bar

Black Diamond

SHALANI

Shalani's music blends heartfelt emotion, raw honesty, and a hint of whimsy. Drawing inspiration from artists like Gillian Welch and Leonard Cohen, she invites audiences on a journey through the snapshots of her musical world and the vibrant characters within it.

THU 7-7:40PM

Tivoli Dance Hall

FRI 3-4PM

Folk School

Youth Traditions 4-Collaboration

SAT 9-10AM

Slacky Flat Bar

Youth Traditions Showcase

SAT 12-12:45PM Tivoli Dance Hall

SUN 12:45-1:30PM Folk Grand Union Singers

SHANTIES AND WORKSONGS

*Our boots and clothes is all in pawn,
And it's flamin' drafty round Cape Horn.
It's round that Cape we all must go,
Around all stiff through frost and snow...*

All aboard as we head round the Cape through toil and strife, through terrifying seas, fierce battles and wild revelry.

SAT 6-6:50PM

Session Tipi

SUN 1-1:50PM

Session Tipi

SLIPPERY JOHN SAUSAGE & THE SWAMPER DOMPER BAYOU BOYS

Raised from the thick, dank waters of the bayou, Slippery John Sausage has emerged to share the swamp with the outside world. Whether it's sing-alongs or stomp-alongs, it's all swamp and nothing but the swamp!

SAT 9:45-10:30PM Folk Grand

SUN 4-4:40PM Bush Tipi





SLIPPERY JOHN SAUSAGE & THE SWAMPER DOMPER BAYOU BOYS



SPERANZA STARBURNER



THE STIFF GINS



TESSA DEVINE



STEAMPUNK VAGABONDS



SUB-TRIBE

SOUL FLAMENCO ILLAWARRA

Wollongong-based flamenco dancers perform traditional Spanish styles including Sevillanas, Alegrias, Bulerias, Seguiriya and Farruca at festivals, weddings and events across the Illawarra.

SAT 11:15-11:45AM Tivoli Dance Hall

SAT 2:15-2:45PM Tivoli Dance Hall

SPERANZA STARBURNER

Speranza Starburner is a kaleidoscope of charisma who has been mesmerising audiences with his vibrant stage shows for over fourteen years! He combines his skills in flow arts, club juggling, LED spinning, and contact juggling to create an unforgettable spectacle of crystal, light and fire.

FRI 8:45-9PM On The Green *Fire Show*

SAT 10-10:40AM Bush Tipi *ARRR is for Adventure*

SAT 12:40-1PM On The Green *Uni Cycling*

SAT 2:40-3PM On The Green *Juggling*

SAT 8:45-9:05PM On The Green *Fire Show*

SUN 10-10:40AM Bush Tipi *ARRR is for Adventure*

SUN 12:40-1PM On The Green *Uni Cycling*

SUN 2:40-3PM On The Green *Juggling*

STEAMPUNK VAGABONDS

Illawarra troupe Steampunk Vagabonds blend bellydance, world dance, circus and pantomime into family-friendly performances that whisk audiences away to imagined eras, places and realities.

SUN 9:45-10:15AM Tivoli Dance Hall

SUN 12:45-1:15PM Tivoli Dance Hall

STIFF GINS

Stiff Gins are one of Australia's most powerful and enduring musical acts. Founded by Wiradjuri/Yorta Yorta woman Kaleena Briggs and Yuwaalaraay woman Nardi Simpson, they are Australia's longest-running all-Indigenous female group. They will be performing songs from their acclaimed new album *Crossroads*, a bold and resonant body of work that continues their 25-year legacy of rich storytelling, cultural pride and unforgettable harmonies.

SAT 7:30-8:30PM Slacky Flat Bar

SUN 4-5PM Black Diamond

STONYBROKE

Now Allan Stone is a poetry bloke. Otherwise known as Stonybroke. He'll make you laugh and make you cry, or spin you tales of pie in the sky. So come along, get on yer bike, when Stonybroke is on the mike.

FRI 3-5PM Grandstand Bar *Arvo Poets*

SAT 8-9:45AM Grandstand Bar *Morning Poets*

SUN 8-9AM Grandstand Bar *Morning Poets*

SUN 4:20-5PM Grandstand Bar *Poets Siesta*

STORY BEATS

StoryBeats is made up of the fabulous duo LilliStory, an award winning internationally acclaimed storyteller and Matt Bourne, a man with the percussion genius. Come along create a story, dance a story, live an adventure in the land of words and beats.

SAT 9-9:40AM Bush Tipi

SUB-TRIBE

From the raw, roots-driven frequencies of Aotearoa (New Zealand) comes SUB-TRIBE. Rolling in thick with bottom end, glitchy beats and soaring harmonies, expect to be taken on a journey across genres. From blues drenched dub, chunky skank reggae to jazz hop and ragga dancehall, SUB-TRIBE leave no groove base unturned.

FRI 9-10PM Slacky Flat Bar

SUPER KENNY AND MAGNIFICENT MANDA

Super Kenny and Magnificent Manda deliver high-energy folk and blues for kids of all ages, with funny, interactive songs and chaotic musical mayhem that keeps festival audiences singing and dancing.

SAT 1-1:40PM Bush Tipi

SUN 9-9:40AM Bush Tipi

TESSA DEVINE

Tessa Devine blends indie-folk storytelling with raw, unfiltered emotion, shifting from soaring vulnerability to foot-stomping rhythm. An award-winning multi-instrumentalist, she fuses folk, indie pop, country and grassroots sounds into an immersive, playful and soulful experience that leaves audiences uplifted, connected and completely drawn in.

FRI 9:45-10:30PM Folk Grand

SAT 3:30-4:30PM Horse Shoe

SUN 10:30-11:30AM Slacky Flat Bar

THE COCKATOOS

Wollongong drumming group The Cockatoos fuse West African songs with



THE FEMME FATALES



THE HIGH STREET DRIFTERS



THE WATER RUNNERS



THE PAIRS



THE INADEQUATES



THE CON ARTISTS

contemporary grooves, energising audiences at events like HONK! and Culture Mix, plus regular shows at The Servo and Eat Street.

FRI 3-4PM Black Diamond
SAT 6-6:45PM Tivoli Dance Hall

THE CON ARTISTS

Fun and irreverent, The Con Artists are a carnival of percussion, wind, brass, accordions, and fiddles. Based at Wollongong Conservatorium of Music, this all-ages community band combines up-and-coming WollCon students, adult community musicians, and some of the region's most prominent folk players, performing dissident and celebratory folk music from around the world.

FRI 7:30-8:15PM Black Diamond
SAT 1:30-2:15PM Tivoli Dance Hall

THE FEMMES FATALES

Femmes Fatales are a femme-focused musical troupe from the streets of Wollongong. They HONK! and hail the end of wrong-doing with an unceremonious, funereal flourish. Harnessing percussion, wind and brass, theatrics and a touch of tap, they lay it to rest, dead and gone, singing up a better world.

SAT 9:30-10:30PM Horse Shoe

THE HIGH STREET DRIFTERS

The High Street Drifters are a bluegrass band from Victoria carving out a distinctive place in the Australian music landscape. Led by mandolinist Justin Vilchez and guitarist Daniel Watkins, the band features a rotating cast of some of the country's finest bluegrass musicians on fiddle, banjo and bass. Known for their rich harmonies, breakneck instrumentals

and heartfelt songwriting, The High Street Drifters bring a fresh, unmistakably Australian voice to the genre.

FRI 4:30-5:30PM Black Diamond
SAT 1:30-2:30PM Slacky Flat Bar *Fiddle Frenzy*
SAT 6:45-7:30PM Folk Grand *Bluegrass Pick*
SAT 8-9PM Horse Shoe
SUN 4:30-5:30PM Slacky Flat Bar

THE INADEQUATES

Dressed in vibrant suits, The Inadequates bring infectious, high-energy performances to the Australian folk scene, quickly becoming festival favourites. Inspired by Punch Brothers, Nickel Creek and Mumford & Sons, they push boundaries—blending the intimacy of acoustic tradition with the exhilarating drive of a modern rock ensemble.

FRI 8:30-9:30PM Black Diamond
SAT 11:15-12PM Folk Grand
SAT 6:45-7:30PM Folk Grand *Bluegrass Pick*
SUN 9:30-10:30AM Horse Shoe

THE OTHER NOONANS

Naughty and nice, profane and profound, The Other Noonans blend dark humour, environmental and political satire with moving songs and sharp social insights. Known for witty onstage banter and harmony, they'll make you think, cringe or cry.

THU 6:30-7PM Grandstand Bar
FRI 8:40-9:25PM Grandstand Bar

THE PAIRS CANADA

Powered by soaring sister harmonies, this quirky trio's unbottled chemistry quickly connects them to their audience. The Pairs offer a unique blend of music

with stories of life's hope, hilarity, and hardship. These classically trained vocalists blur the line between the stage and the crowd as if you've pulled up a seat around their kitchen table.

FRI 9:30-10:30PM Horse Shoe
SAT 6-7PM Slacky Flat Bar
SUN 1-2PM Black Diamond

THE WATER RUNNERS

From Kiama, (Dharawal country), The Water Runners have navigated mechanical mishaps, dangerous roads and roadhouse food to share their vibrant blend of bluegrass-infused Australian wide. Their strong musicianship and well-crafted songs offer a rich storytelling experience from the serious to the seriously fun.

SAT 5:15-6PM Folk Grand
SUN 10:30-11:15AM Tivoli Dance Hall

TRIBAL JEWELS DANCE CO

Tribal Jewels Dance appeals to a broad range of audiences with its diverse roots and styling. They bring joyful, colourful bellydance to the stage, featuring vibrant multicultural costumes, music and props.

SAT 9:45-10:15AM Tivoli Dance Hall
SAT 12:45-1:15PM Tivoli Dance Hall



THE COCKATOOS

UNCLE FRANK YAMMA

Frank Yamma is one of Australia's most important Indigenous songwriters, known for his powerful voice, compelling guitar work and deeply emotional songs. An initiated Pitjantjatjara man, Frank sings in both Pitjantjatjara and English, telling stories of love, loss, country and

FRI 7:30-8:30PM Slacky Flat Bar
SAT 3-4PM Slacky Flat Bar

UNGUS UNGUS UNGUS

Ungus Ungus Ungus is the stripey, strange, swinging circus party band for the ages, defying definition while driving the dancefloor with bits of Balkan brass and bottomless beats and bass. Expect sharp turns aplenty as the sound leaps from psychedelic ska to salty shanties and beyond.

FRI 8:15-9PM Horse Shoe
SAT 10:30-11:30PM Tivoli Dance Hall
SUN 12-12:45PM Tivoli Dance Hall
SUN 8-9PM Slacky Flat Bar

VOLUNTEER PHOTO

SUN 7:45-8PM Slacky Flat Bar

WHISKEY DRAM

Bringing you a refreshing blend of full-bodied pirate folk, with a peaty profile of Irish trad, Australian Americana, Blues, bluegrass, a briny punk palate and a burnt tonewood finish.

THU 8-8:40PM Tivoli Dance Hall
FRI 6-7PM Session Tipi-Session
SAT 9-9:45PM Tivoli Dance Hall
SUN 3-3:40PM Bush Tipi



UNCLE FRANK YAMMA



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BONNIE JACKSON • CAISHA SPROUT • THE CARTRIDGE FAMILY
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EMMA DONOVAN • TAKE ME TO THE RIVER • FANTASTIC NEGRITO USA
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2025 VOLUNTEER PHOTO

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ILLAWARRA FOLK CLUB & FESTIVAL

Founded in 1979, the Illawarra Folk Club has been hosting concerts in the Wollongong/Illawarra region for over four decades.

Since 1985, it has presented the Illawarra Folk Festival 20 times in Jamberoo and 19 times in Bulli. What began as a small gathering has grown into one of Australia's premier folk festivals.

As a community-based incorporated association, the Club is dedicated to preserving, performing, and celebrating folklore in all its forms, with members including local folk musicians, dancers, poets, and storytellers.

REGULAR EVENTS AND FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

The Club organises regular concerts and events at venues throughout the Illawarra area. The Festival is managed by a dedicated sub-committee of around 40 members.

This committee meets monthly throughout the year, with meetings becoming more frequent as the festival approaches.

Planning for the 2027 festival will start in March 2026.

If you're interested in supporting the Folk Club or the Festival, you can call: 1300 887 034 or email: info@illawarrafolkclub.org.au General volunteer registration will commence in October 2026.

CALL FOR HELP

The Illawarra Folk Festival is powered by the incredible dedication of volunteers.

Do you have a skill to share, or even a few spare hours during the Festival to help keep everything running smoothly

and joyfully?

We'd truly love to hear from you!

Drop by the Volunteer Top-Up Desk in the Slacky Flat Bar to offer a hand, or get in touch to be involved in the 40th Illawarra Folk Festival, 15-17 January 2027.



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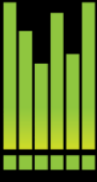
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BAND ^{USA} • LIZZIE FLYNN & THE RUNAWAY TRAINS
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